

# The Eastern Iowa DXer

The Official Newsletter of the  
Eastern Iowa DX Association



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



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July/August 2001

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## Club Officers

President:	Heinz Blankenhagen, NR0X	PacketCluster	WB8ZRL
Vice President:	Rick Heinrich, N0YY	147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM	
Secretary Treasurer:	Tom Kueny, K0DX		
Repeater Committee:	Al Groff K0VM Joe Finkstein W0MJN	Repeater:	N0DX/R
		144.59/145.19	
Membership Committee:	Jim Spencer W0SR Tom Vavra WB8ZRL		

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## From the President

Heinz Blankenhagen, NR0X

This summer has absolutely flown by for me. It seems like all I have been doing is mowing the lawn with a few bike rides in between. Before you know it the contest season will be upon us. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the picnic. Don't forget to bring a chair, table service and a covered dish. Terry has informed me that we will be having Johnsonville Brats again this year. I hear they can cause a big crowd to gather. Lemonade will also be furnished but if you prefer another beverage you'd better bring it with you.

I received my August QST today and looking at the 160M contest results see that several EIDX members were listed. Steve Miller, N0SM, did very well, placing first in Iowa and third in the Midwest Region. N0AAA, WB0B and N2BTJ were also listed but for some reason we did not make the club listings. In the VHF Sweepstakes Steve Sawyers, NA0IA, placed third in the Midwest Region as a

rover. Steve Miller also was listed in this one. Well done guys.

On July 8 the weather got a bit nasty for some. I was driving through Tama when it hit there with high wind and torrential rain. The storm continued eastward and did some serious damage at Wade Walstrom's QTH. Atop his 110 foot tower were five-element beams for 10, 15 and 20m. The wind bent his mast over at least 45 degrees and tore up the boom on the 20-meter beam. The only way to remove the mess was with a crane. See the pictures of the recovery effort. Tom, WB8ZRL, and Steve, NA0IA, assisted wade with the work. Several others watched and took pictures. I have forwarded a number of them to Rick, and I am sure he will publish some of them.

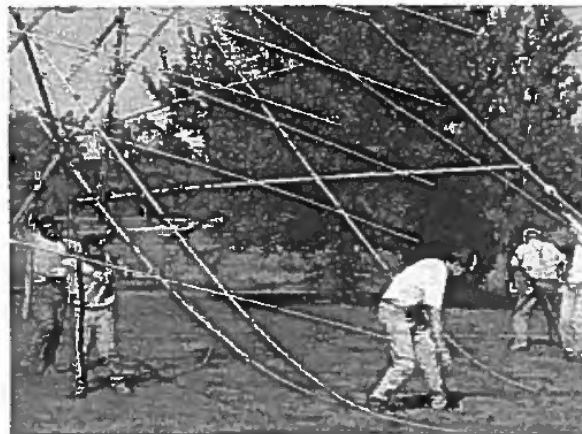
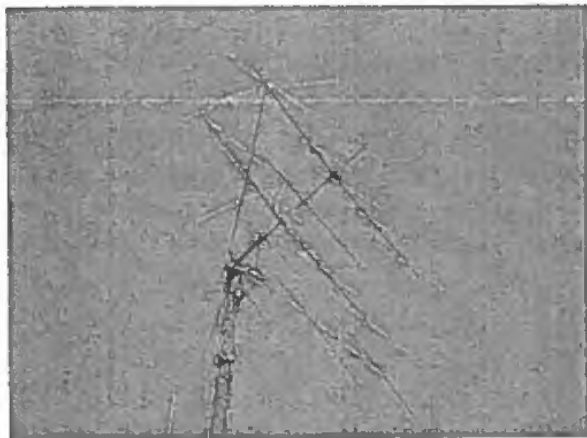
Meanwhile Glen, K0JGH, described to me the wonderful time he and Pamela, N0ICF, had on their vacation trip to Spain and the Madeira Islands. They visited the family of their recent exchange student. Glen has indicated that he will try to give us a video presentation describing their adventure at the fall meeting. They

took an IC-706 and did some operating during their stay in Madeira. Nelson KUØA was the only club member that had a QSO with them. Conditions were not very good according to Glen. Should be interesting. I may have a few pictures to show also, after a Caribbean trip we will be taking later this fall. I plan to take a radio and do some operating from the boat.

See you at the picnic.

73 NRØX

As Heinz mentioned, here are some photos (thanks to WØLBK and NRØX) of what an inappropriate gust of wind can do to a well designed antenna system.



## ***The Editor's Corner***

By Rick NØYY

I am going to try something this issue. I have sent a copy via e-mail as well as via the standard postal service. At the first fall meeting I would like to take a poll to see how everyone likes the e-mail delivery. I expect that we will revisit this issue when I get the web-site up and running as well. Thanks.

Well hopefully this issue finds everyone nearing completion of their antenna projects and getting ready to enjoy the upcoming contest season.

Time has flown since our spring meeting with the outstanding presentation and visit by Glen WØGJ and his discussion on A52A.

Dayton has come and gone, WØSR got the EIDX server on-line, and we all have pursued our own projects.

Several members attended Dayton with grand plans. My unofficial tally of those attending included: AKØM, NØLNO, WØAWG, WØSR, WB8ZRL, KEØMO, NØDY, and myself.

The weather didn't cooperate on Friday and early Saturday with more rain than in past years. But in the end, I walked more than I wanted to!

There was talk among those traveling in the "convoy" of new mobile antennas and radios, HF Tri-bander alternatives, etc. In general the expectations were high.

I think less money was spent this year, but everyone seemed to have a good time. Tom, WB8ZRL and I would up "big" winners, capturing door prizes.

I always enjoy seeing old friends from places where I have lived in the past. This was no exception. This was also the first time that carrying a VHF/UHF handheld didn't play either. All travel coordination was done via cell phone. It sure was restful on the ears from past years where I had the speaker/mic up to my ear all day.

Yes, I got some new toys to help finish my station. Now I've just got to stay home long enough to get the jobs done.

Once things slow down at work and getting the station on the air, I hope to get the club website up and running as well.

Too many projects, too little time...

## **EIDXA Club Badges**

It has been a few years since we placed a badge order for members. Our previous badge provider appears to have fallen to poor health and is no longer able to produce our badge dies and do the engraving.

While at Dayton we talked to the SignMan from Baton Rouge. Rick has agreed to work with the club to produce a club logo backing and do a standard

engraving package. The details are based on the existing EIDXA badge from the previous producer.

There's a one-time \$25 die charge to make the metal die. If the initial order is for 10 or more badges, the die fee will be waived. Please allow ~2-3 weeks for the die making process.

A 4-line badge is \$7.50 and includes a locking safety pin fastener. (Members may choose their preferred fastener.) Shipping & handling is \$1.25 per badge if he mails each badge directly to the member or \$6 for 5 or more badges delivered to a single address.

Once we have the badge design finalized, we can add the EIDXA to the SignMan's - "Clubs & Organizations" section of his web site ([www.thesignman.com/clubs/others.html](http://www.thesignman.com/clubs/others.html)). This will provide the necessary reference for future badge orders.

*I'm always looking for ideas and inputs for the newsletter. If you have something that you would like to include, please get a copy to me via any of the traditional methods. (e-mail, US Postal, etc.)*

*Let me know if there is a section of the newsletter that you would like to see added or changed.*

*Remember, this is your newsletter!!*

## Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the Eastern Iowa DX Association is the annual summer picnic on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at the QTH of NR0X. Don't forget to bring a chair, table service and a covered dish. We will be having Johnsonville Brats again this year. Lemonade will also be furnished but if you prefer another beverage you'd better bring it with you.

Monitor 145.19 for directions if needed. See you there



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